REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 5 and 7-12. Claims 5, 7 and 9 have been amended to better define the invention. In addition, new claims 11 and 12 dependent on claims 7 and 9, respectively, have been added. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure in FIGS. 4-6 and the accompanying description. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazit et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,219,640* or *Gordon U.S. Patent No. 3,057,952* in view of *Fey et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,815,126.* Essentially the Examiner's position was that each of *Gazit* and *Gordon* teaches the electrical connection component recited in the claims except for the special alternate and oblique conductive pattern arrangement and a metal plating layer that has a greater conductivity than the conductive pattern member, that these features were either taught by *Fey et al.* or considered within the skill of the art, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to coat the circuit trace pattern with a high conductive metal because it would enhance conductivity as well as providing a diffusion barrier to the underlying metal layers and to chose a desirable

pattern arrangement as just a matter of design choice.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 5, 7 and 9 to better define the invention and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claims 5, 7 and 9 as amended, Applicants' invention provides an electrical connection component including a plurality of plate-like flexible conductive pattern members, a sheet-like gel member having the conductive pattern members embedded therein, and flexible base material sheets retaining the gel member therebetween.

As recited in claim 5 as amended, a thin film conductive layer coats an external surface of each conductive pattern member, and an additional flexble base material sheet bisects the sheet-like gel member in a thickness direction of a gel member into two gel portions. In addition, the plurality of plate-like flexible conductive pattern members are disposed in the gel portions, respectively.

As a result, the conductive pattern members are separated ino two groups which are placed at both sides of the additional flexible base material sheet, respectively. In this way, the conductive pattern members can be relatively far away from each other. See embodiment exemplified in FIG. 6.

As set forth in claim 7 as amended, the plurality of plate-like flexible conductive pattern members are disposed on both sides of a neutral line which bisects the sheet-like gel member in a thickness direction thereof. The conductive pattern members are displaced from one another between the both sides in a direction of the neutral line. In this way, the conductive pattern members can be relatively far away from each other as well. See the emobodiment exemplified in FIG. 4.

As set forth in claim 9 as amended, the plurality of plate-like flexible conductive pattern members are disposed on a neutral line bisecting the sheet-like gel member in a thickness direction thereof. Each of the conductive pattern members is oriented obliquely to the neutral line. As a result, the conductive pattern members can be relatively far away from each other as well. See the embodiment exemplified in FIG. 5.

Thus, in each of claims 5, 7 and 9, as amended, the conductive pattern members are disposed in a gel member in a unique arrangement or a unique posture.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests an electrical connection component having the structure recited in claims 5, 7 and 9 as amended or teaches the benefits of the specific arrangement or posture of the conductive pattern members disposed in a gel member as set forth in those claims. Although the Examiner has indicated it would have been obvious to choose a desirable pattern arrangement as simply a matter of design choice, Applicants respectfully traverse as Applicants' arrangement specifically permits the conductive pattern members to be relatively far away from each other which is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the prior art cited by the Examiner. With Applicants' electrical connection component, the bending resistance can be improved because the stress caused by the bending due to external forces is dispersed by the gel member and thus is not concentrated at the conductive pattern members. As a result, the electrical connection component has a bending resistance that is twice or more than a conventional flexible printed circuit (FPC) and the particular processing for the

bending becomes unnecessary.

In summary, claims 5, 7 and 9 have been amended, claim 8 has been canceled and new claims 11 and 12 have been added. In view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Applicants also submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 30, 2007.

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